

J. B. Esch
(Incomplete)

Bristol, October 17th - 1846



My dear Mr. Garrison,

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I have been writing to
write to you for a long time, but
I was chiefly deterred by an un-
willingness to break in upon your
overburdened time, & so to re-
main you to feel any thing like
omitting neglecting a claim by
omitting to reply to any commu-
nication from me.

But I cannot suffer you to
leave our country without tendering
you an adieu as cordial as the
welcome that was felt on your
arrival, however ^{fully it may have been} expressed.

You would not doubt that I have
been watching your progress thro' dif-

fewest places in England; and have
been pretty fortunate in procuring news-
papers giving an account of your
public meetings. It cannot be other-
wise than that your visit to England
must excite a great deal of new-born
attention to American Slavery. You
know that my view was at first, (and
discussion & much communication
with others has confirmed it,) that
~~you~~^{had} exclusively ^{ing}conferred your self to
the subject of Anti Slavery ^{was the way} ~~you would~~
^{to} have secured a willing attention from
a most important & influential class
of English Society, who would at once be
repelled from an American citizen
who uncalled for, made public state-
ments of his opinions upon various
topics of political agitation in their
country. It is not that the holding of
~~any~~ opinions of any sort is objected to,
nor their expression, when circumstances
demand their honest avowal; but it is
remarkably the case with us, that a person
who is out of general fault-finder and

reformer, ~~however~~ little attended to upon any
one subject wherein he is particularly
qualified & anxious to impart infor-
mation. American Slavery is by
no means yet sufficiently understood
with us to qualify people to enter into the
minutiae of what are called Anti-
Slavery principles: - a year hence, you
visit and probably have been more
useful. And I think you ~~more~~ rather
miscalculate the class of persons here
who are most likely to benefit your
movement, and whom it was most
desirable to enlighten. You must have
in mind that your Slavery Institution
has remarkably little personal interest
with the lower classes of people in England,
where their rights & welfare are con-
cerned, movements originating with
them are sure to extend upwards;
but their ~~own~~ ^{ever} voices, if raised against Anti-
Slavery, will be powerless on the classes
above them. It is the wealthy & ~~intelligent~~
^{educated} ~~classes~~ ^{circle} of this country who are

desire to assist the Abolitionists would do
your cause most service.

Still, I am quite prepared to believe
that the step you have made, — in spite
too of the strength of denunciations which
it all but universally condemned, (or
regretted by numerous earnest friends of
the Abol. Movement) will do good, and
excite inquiry, tho' less than would have
been the case under a different mode of
proceeding.

It is not to be wondered at that you
have not found time to put forth the
little tract you contemplated showing
the ^{different} ~~different~~ principles of the Old & New
American A. S. Soci^{ties}. Without a clear
knowledge of these distinctions, any
denunciations of the well known names
of those belonging to the Am. & Foreign
A. S. Soci^{ties} at once prejudices persons
against your party.

Mr. Thompson has probably men-
tioned to you the sentiments of his lat-
est friends in reference to the "Principle"
adopted by the London League. Surely it is
~~hard ground to maintain~~ proved sufficiently

2nd / broad & to content a reasonable Abolitionist
to maintain that "All Slaveholding is
a sin, & ought to be immediately aban-
doned"? — and if leaving out the words
"under all conceivable circumstances"
enables a great many zealous friends
to join the League who would not were
these words ~~they~~ retained, surely such a concession
to their opinions, (to their prejudices
if you will) ought not to be withheld
by those who take a lead in the enter-
prise!

You must not expect much, —
for some time at least, from the new
League: it has too many opponents,
and has not that sort of basis which
is needed in this country ^{for giving} ~~to give~~ efficacy
to a great moral movement, to
allow of its producing any speedy results.

I am anxious to draw your atten-
tion to a desirable evidence of progress
among the Unitarians. The chief perio-
dical organ of our body the "Christian
Reformer" formerly edited by the late Rev^d

Robert Aspland of Harkney, (now by his
son Rev. R. Brooke A. of Dunkinfield,
whose name I before mentioned to you)
was unfavorable to the Abolitionists
of America. The sentiments of the
Dewey school were entertained by the
late Mr. A. His son rather inherited
these prejudices, but in the October
No. of the C. Refresher is an article
on "American Slavery", giving decided
proof of altered, & I hope still altering
views.

I have addressed to Mr. Chap.
man a copy of the C. R. & enclosed it
in the box with the Bazaar articles.

The subject is to be continued in the
Nov. No. I shall hope to be able to
send you at some future time, the
whole of the Article, as I have applied
to Mr. A. for separate copies, & have
been promised them.

Mr. Thompson's short visit to
Wiltel gave me much pleasure, as
I wished for more acquaintance with
him.

Your friend Miss Parker is making a
fair copy for you of no. 11 in two of our
Printed papers, (both High tonix, and
in former times, per Harvey) relative
to the articles for the Boston Bazaar,
to inspect which the Editors were in-
vited. - We thought they would be accep-
tated for the Liberator, or Nat. A. S.
Standard.

The death of poor Abby throws an
deepened interest around the circum-
stance of the short visit we paid him
together at Bath. "We shall meet
in another world" were I think the
last of the parting words he said to you.

The report of this exposure has given
satisfaction to some surviving friends,
who hardly were able to satisfy them-
selves, that so supporting a sentiment
sustained, & illumined his mind
under the dark clouds of mental &
bodily disease with which it had
pleased Providence long afflicted him.

It has been ascertained that he had to some extent the malady which he supposed, a narrowing of the calibre of one of the intestines: but the effect the disease had upon his mind was worthy of proportionate to the derangement of his physical frame: and the persistent misapprehension afforded no evidence that he might not have had many years of tolerable enjoyment had he been left prejudiced in favour of some hydropathic mode of treatment to which he exclusively subjected himself.

I have just received a long letter from Mr. S. May in reply to that I wrote him on the 4th of September last, detailing point after point of your visit to Bristol. He expressed great interest in the little narrative I furnished him with. It is one of the pleasing points of your short sojourn among us, that it has drawn more closely around you the hearts of those who sympathize